

Hiroko Kanna Bio

Music was always an important part of Hiroko's life. She encountered Brazilian music in Japan when she was 15. She loved the records of Astrud Gilberto and Stan Getz, and Sergio Mendes and Brazil '66. Soon after that, she was introduced to Jazz.

After relocating to New York, she started to study jazz vocals at "Sounds Of Joy", "Jazzmobile" and "The Barry Harris Work Shop". She studied jazz theory, improvisation, vocal technique, performance technique, scat singing and piano. She also studied voice and attended private coaching sessions with Norman Simmons, Inez Jackson, Tom Whitney, Grace Testani, Norma Garbo, Elina Vasilchikova, Andrea Green, Selena Miyazaki, Karrin Alyson and Alexis Cole. She studied jazz piano with Ken-ichi Shimazu, Jim Blanchard, Larry Porter and Jim Jimielita. She started to perform as a professional jazz vocalist in 1984.

Hiroko recorded her first CD, "All About Love", with David Hazeltine, Helio Alvez, Craig Handy, Jeremy Pelt, Santi Debriano, Tommy Campbell and Russ Morrow in 2016.

She has performed extensively in Japan and in many restaurants and clubs in New York such as JRG Fashion Café, Cucina Stagionale, Mannahatta, Kavehaz, Carpo's Café, La Cave, Tomi Jazz, Spo-Dee-O-Dees, Shutters, Nirvana, Cho Cho San, Tsion Cafe, Silvana, etc. She also performed in the "Discoveries Concert" and the "Hiroko Kanna Aquarius Concert" at the Jazz Center of N.Y., "International Night" at the International Center and a solo concert at Sweetwaters. She has been accompanied by jazz giants such as Houston Person, Rufus Reid, Akira Tana, Harold Mabern, Norman Simmons, Frank Owens, Richard Wyands, Earl May, Lyle Atkinson, and Ken-Ichi Shimazu.